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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,728	02/07/2002	Chester L. Schuler	IMM043E	2651

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EXAMINER

KUMAR, SRILAKSHMI K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/072,728	SCHULER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Srilakshmi K. Kumar	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25 and 27-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-25 and 27-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The following office action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination, filed on November 3, 2006. Claims 19-25, 27-33 are pending. Claims 19, 25 and 31 are amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 19-25, 27-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable by McIntosh (US 5,103,404) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA)

In reference to claims 19, 25, 31 and 33, McIntosh teaches manipulating device with force feedback. Motors/actuators are configured to provide modulated force feedback (column 4, lines 37-41). McIntosh's invention also includes a data storage component that stores the torque data to be supplied to control the force feedback (column 10, 46-53). McIntosh also teaches a sensor that is used to determine the position of the moveable device (column 7, 50-57). In column 2, lines 49-54, McIntosh teaches that the "the motion of (the) motor, is determined by either operator controlled movements of the control motor or preprogrammed motion instructions" i.e. a force profile. More specifically, he teaches "the manipulator motor is driven to its desired position as determined by the control motor, or in some cases, preprogrammed instructions" and "that the system provides a readily programmable degree of coupling between the two motors" in column 3, lines 1-30. McIntosh discusses the different mode of force

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calculations that may be implemented, also described in the flowcharts disclosed in figures 18-23. McIntosh's invention also includes RAM and ROM memories (figure 10) to assist in the loading and storing of torque information. Finally, McIntosh also includes a local controller that is connected to the storage device and actuator (figure 10). The local controller communicates with the host computer (column 10, lines 24-25) to determine the correct feedback values to be applied (column 10, 30-45). McIntosh does not disclose wherein the haptic feedback including a modulating force simulating a plurality of electronically defined stop positions. Applicant's Admitted Prior Art on page 2, line 17-page 3, line 5 teach where it is well known in the art where haptic feedback devices have control wheel that exhibit tactile responsiveness, such as detents or clicks as they are rotated, wherein each click is a modulating force simulating a plurality of electronically defined stop positions, such that each click corresponds to one frame. Therefore, it would have been obvious to include the modulating force simulating a plurality of electronically defined stop positions as taught by AAPA, as the stop positions enable the user to determine frame rates as discussed on pages 2 and 3 of applicant's specification.

In reference to claim 20, McIntosh teaches the use of two motors for performing feedback (column 2, lines 42-43).

In reference to claim 21, McIntosh teaches that the data storage component is capable of storing and recalling information (column 10, lines 5-8).

In reference to claims 22 and 32, in column 4, lines 37-41, McIntosh teaches that the torque values are used to produce the desired tactile feedback force.

In reference to claims 23 and 28, as shown in figure 10, McIntosh teaches the data storage component is external to the controller.

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In reference to claims 24 and 29, as shown in figure 10, McIntosh teaches the RAM and ROM components are external to the microprocessor (item 61), however one skilled in the art understands that control chips may be constructed to include memory elements. This feature of where the RAM and ROM are internal to the processor is evidenced by Sanderson (US 4,768,412) in col. 10, lines 56-66 where a microprocessor is taught to internally include the RAM and ROM. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to use a controller with an internal storage component in order to reduce the number of parts needed to fabricate the invention.

In reference to claim 27, McIntosh teaches that the moveable member is a portion of an actuator (column 4, lines 37-41).

In reference to claim 30, McIntosh's storage component (figure 10, item 65) receives data from a remote processor (item 26).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-25, 27-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With respect to applicant's request for prior art disclosing where the memory is internally included, see the evidenced prior art of Sanderson as is disclosed above.

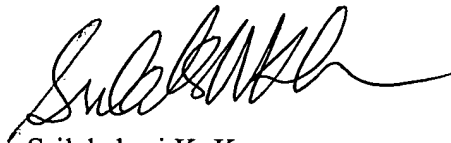
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Srilakshmi K. Kumar whose telephone number is 571 272 7769. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on 571 272 3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Srilakshmi K. Kumar
Examiner
Art Unit 2629

SKK
November 9, 2006